

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 remain active in this case, Claims 1, 7, 9 and 15 having been amended and Claims 17-24 canceled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 17-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which is not enabling and Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0137529).

First, Claims 7 and 15 have been amended to correct minor typographical informalities.

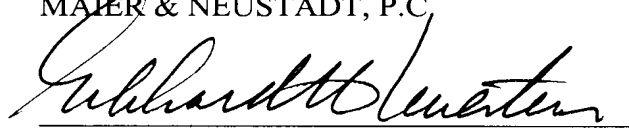
Next, to expedite issuance of a patent from the present application, Claims 17-24 have been canceled without prejudice, subject to Applicants' right to further pursue "computer readable medium" in a subsequent continuation application.

Finally, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's helpful suggestion at page 8 of the outstanding Office Action, in the "Response to Arguments," to add the word "separate" or "individual" to the independent claims to state in Claim 1, for example, "to receive separate plural image acquisition requests per second." Applicants have adopted this suggestion and amended Claims 1 and 9 accordingly, to better overcome Takahashi. In view of these changes, and in view of the prior arguments of record, it is believed that the pending amended claims now patentably distinguish over Takahashi and that the outstanding ground for rejection has been overcome.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eckhard H. Kuesters', written over a horizontal line.

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